Case 2995

Dialictus Robertson, 1902 and *Chloralictus* Robertson, 1902 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): proposed precedence over *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to give the much-used halictine bee generic (or subgeneric) names *Dialictus* and *Chloralictus*, published by C. Robertson in February and September 1902 respectively, precedence over the little-used name *Paralictus* published by Robertson the previous year.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; halictine bees; *Dialictus*; *Chloralictus*; *Paralictus*.

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1. Robertson (1901, p. 229) established the nominal genus *Paralictus* for a small group of cleptoparasitic halictine bees. He designated as type species *Halictus cephalicus* Robertson, 1892 (p. 270); however, the name of this is a junior primary homonym of *H. cephalicus* Morawitz, 1873 (p. 173) and Dalla Torre (1896, p. 57) provided *H. cephalotes* as a replacement name.

2. In 1902 Robertson proposed two names for close nonparasitic relatives of *Paralictus*; these names are *Dialictus* (1902a, p. 48; type species *H. anomalus* Robertson, 1892, p. 272) and *Chloralictus* (1902b, p. 245; type species *H. cressonii* Robertson, 1890, p. 317), published in February and September 1902 respectively.

3. *Paralictus*, *Dialictus* and *Chloralictus* have been treated as genera, or as subgenera of *Lasioglossum* Curtis, 1833 or *Halictus* Latreille, 1804. *Dialictus* and *Chloralictus*, often but not always considered synonyms under the former name, have been used in dozens of works, relating to about 265 nominal species in the western hemisphere and a smaller number in the eastern hemisphere, not only in taxonomic and ecological literature, but also in diverse papers on behavior and origins of social behavior, and in books on these topics. Examples of works which illustrate usage are Mitchell (1960), Wilson (1971), Michener (1974), Wilson (1975), Hurd (1979), Moure & Hurd (1987), Michener (1990) and Michener, McGinley & Danforth (1994). Their bibliographies give further references, and a list of a further 13 works by various authors has been given to the Commission Secretariat. *Paralictus*, however, has been used uncommonly except in catalogues and faunal works because the five included species are uncommon.

4. *Paralictus* may or may not be a monophyletic group; it is clearly derived from *Dialictus*/*Chloralictus*. *Paralictus*, *Dialictus* and *Chloralictus* are now regarded as synonymous (Michener, in preparation). If names in use were altered because of the priority of *Paralictus*, the current generic or subgeneric placement of some 300 species would change from *Dialictus* or *Chloralictus* to *Paralictus*. Especially because the

name *Dialictus* has been so much involved in works on behavior and the evolution of social behavior, such changes would be contrary to stability of nomenclature.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the names *Dialictus* Robertson, February 1902 and *Chloralictus* Robertson, September 1902 are to be given precedence over *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901 whenever they are considered to be synonyms of it;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:

(a) *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy and original designation *Halictus anomalus* Robertson, 1892, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;

(b) *Chloralictus* Robertson, 1902 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Halictus cressonii* Robertson, 1890, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;

(c) *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Halictus cephalicus* Robertson, 1892 (a junior homonym of *Halictus cephalicus* Morawitz, 1873 and replaced by *Halictus cephalotes* Dalla Torre, 1896), with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902 or *Chloralictus* Robertson, 1902 when it is considered to be a synonym of them;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:

(a) *anomalus* Robertson, 1892, as published in the binomen *Halictus anomalus* (specific name of the type species of *Dialictus* Robertson, 1902);

(b) *cressonii* Robertson, 1892, as published in the binomen *Halictus cressonii* (specific name of the type species of *Chloralictus* Robertson, 1902);

(c) *cephalotes* Dalla Torre, 1896, as published in the binomen *Halictus cephalotes* (valid replacement of the specific name of *Halictus cephalicus* Robertson, 1892, the type species of *Paralictus* Robertson, 1901).

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